

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2007

Spokane Valley, Washington

A regular meeting of the Washington State Fire Defense Committee was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 1:30p.m.

Present at the meeting were:

Central Region:	Tedd Hendershot, Steve North
Lower Columbia Region	
Mid Columbia Region	Randy Johnson, Dale Bjork
Northeast Region	Bill Walkup, Bruce Holloway
Northwest Region	
Olympic Region	
South Puget Sound Region	Dan Smith
Southeast Region	
Southwest Region	Dave LaFave Tom McDowell
WSP Fire Protection Bureau	Mike Matlick, Esther Hernandez
DNR	Joe Shramek
EMD	
FPPB	Mark Kahley
Guests:	Cliff Rogers, WSP
	Patrick Lonergan, Chelan Co. DEM
	Brian Schaeffer, Spokane Fire

Chair Bill Walkup called the meeting to order at 1:30p.m. Introductions were conducted.

The Agenda was approved upon a motion by LaFave and a Second by Johnson.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 20th teleconference meeting were approved as mailed upon a motion by LaFave and a second by Johnson.

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REPORTS This was scheduled as a short meeting since it was in conjunction with the annual management team training so the meeting went directly to reports.

▪ **Fire Protection Bureau, Washington State Patrol –Mike Matlick**

Mike reported that he is still looking into the Open Public Meetings issue that he presented at the last meeting. He has asked for some guidance through their AG but in the meantime he recommended maintaining the status quo until he hears something different.

Mike informed the committee that the evacuation / access legislation has been referred to a WASPC committee to develop a policy on a contingency plan. It was recommended by consensus that Randy Johnson's name be forwarded to the Fire Chiefs to assist the committee if possible. Dave LaFave will forward this recommendation on to Chief Packer.

Mike requested to know the status of the discussion at last meeting on the time frame for submitting reimbursement requests to the Patrol for payment. It was mentioned by Holloway that the plan has a 45 day limit now but it could be reviewed in light of the issues created for the patrol on payment of some claims. It was agreed to keep this as an agenda item and review it for possible changes to the plan when specific information is gathered regarding the appropriate time frame for submittal of claims. Chairman Walkup mentioned to the members that it is the regional coordinators responsibility to remind their agencies of this time frame.

Mike advised the committee that the annual preseason fire mobilization meeting will be on May 10th at Camp Murray. Time and exact location will be sent to those invited to attend this session.

Emergency Management – No representative No report

Department of Natural Resources - Joe Shramek

Joe reported on the status of legislative issues which concern the DNR. Some items are looking pretty good so far.

It appears that there will be some funding this year to upgrade some of their helicopters to federal flight standards so they can be used on federal fire incidents.

The DNR is getting prepared for fire season as usual.

Joe suggested that the teams need to be made aware that there are 3 areas in the state in which fire protection districts and municipal fire departments have entered into interlocal agreements that provide for the participating agencies to certify and "card" their own personnel and resources. These are in Spokane County, Benton County and the Chelan County area. DNR as supported each of these interlocal agreements, and he wanted the committee to know that personnel from the participating agencies will not have DNR red cards once

their Chief begins signing them. He committed to sending a list of the participating agencies to committee members to be attached to the minutes. .

▪ **Fire Protection Policy Board – Mark Kahley**

Mark mentioned a couple of things of concern for the committee.

First the issue of “all hazard” response for mobilization was still an open issue with

No resolution as yet.

Second, he informed this committee that the training committee was evolving into an active and competent group.

LaFave asked about a change in the contracts with the DNR that does not recognize DNR protected lands that are within a fire district i.e., that is those lands on which the DNR collects fire protections fees and the fire district does not collect taxes. Joe indicated that this had been discussed and should be included where appropriate.

▪ **Geographic Board - Joe Shramek for Bill Walkup**

Joe said that the WIIMT Geographic Board met yesterday with the 5 IMTs and that the annual three-day t am meeting was underway and going well. There are enough qualified people to again field 5 teams. One issue was brought up by an IC that concerned the ability to extend the deployment of teams past 14 days, which may eliminate some unnecessary transitions. Discussion of the committee was that the ability to extend an assignment already exists. Shramek informed the committee that this has been done on several occasions upon the request of an IC.

• **PNWCG Training working team– Dave LaFave**

It was clarified that this is the training team working group. Dave had no report.

ACTIVE ISSUES

Issues 1 and 2 are on hold waiting the updating of the type 3 team process underway by Homeland Security.

All risk mobilization

LaFave reported on a meeting with some of those concerned with this issue recently and it was agreed to put the matter to the AG. It was agreed by all present that the question was going to be framed to answer the legislative intent of the mobilization plan and the budget spending authority from the disaster response account.

Randy Johnson informed the committee that he heard this morning that other issues were requested to be put into the question to the AG. Specifically the Chief of the State Patrol be given the authority to deny mobilizations. The committee questioned why the Chief of the Patrol would want to deny a mobilization request if it met all of the criteria and trip wires in the plan and the authority for use of disaster account had been clarified. This change in position appears to be in direct conflict with the consensus reached by all of the members present with Representative O'Brien and does not seem to be focused on the protection of the citizens of the State of Washington.

Mike Matlick stated that the Chief still has issues with the all risk mobilization process and talked to Representative O'Brien about getting together after the legislative session on the matter. Matlick stated that a written opinion from the AG did not really mean anything and that it was just a legal opinion.

General concern was voiced by members of the SFDC committee who have been involved in this process. They expressed the feeling that the cooperative relationship to resolve the issue of financing for the "all hazard" incident has been corrupted by entering another aspect into the question. It was the discussion that the issue needs to be pursued with diligence to be certain all understands the impact on mobilization.

It was the general consensus that the frustration created by this apparent backdoor question has compromised the attempt to solve the issue collaboratively in the interests of the citizens of the state.

NO FURTHER BUSINESS COMING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

The next meeting will be in Issaquah on May 15th, 2007.

Tom McDowell, recording secretary, 10-18-2005